

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) The orthopaedic component of claim 23 2, wherein:
said component body is a molded body; and
said RFID tag is molded within said molded body.

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (currently amended) The orthopaedic component of claim 23 [4],
wherein said cover is a biocompatible potting material.

Claim 6. (original) The orthopaedic component of claim 5, wherein said potting material is a bone cement.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The orthopaedic component of claim 23 [4],
wherein said cover is a biocompatible metal, a biocompatible polymer, or a
biocompatible composite material.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The orthopaedic component of claim 23 4, wherein said RFID tag includes:

 a transmission receiver configured for receiving external transmissions;
 an information storage element; and
 a control circuit electrically connected between said receiver and said storage element and operable to activate said storage element in response to an external transmission.

Claim 9. (original) The orthopaedic component of claim 8, wherein said transmission receiver operates as a passive power supply for said RFID tag.

Claim 10. (original) The orthopaedic component of claim 8, wherein said information storage element has read/write capabilities.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The orthopaedic component of claim 10, wherein
 said information storage element includes an EEPROM; and
 said orthopaedic component replaces at least a portion of a bone in a joint.

Claims 12-14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (currently amended) The orthopaedic component of claim 24 44, wherein said engagement element is configured for a taper-fit engagement.

Claims 16-22. (cancelled)

Claim 23. (new) An orthopaedic component for engagement to a human body, comprising:

 a component body defining a cavity sized to receive a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag therein;

 an RFID tag configured for storing information related to the orthopaedic component, said RFID tag associated with said component body so that the stored information can be accessed by an independent reader; and

 a cover for closing said cavity with said RFID tag within said cavity.

Claim 24. (new) An orthopaedic component for engagement to a human body, comprising:

 a component body;

 a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag configured for storing information related to the orthopaedic component, said RFID tag associated with said component body so that the stored information can be accessed by an independent reader;

 a housing defining a cavity sized for receiving said RFID tag therein;

 an engagement feature defined between said housing and said component body, said engagement feature including a recess defined in said component body and an engagement element defined on said housing, wherein said engagement element is configured for press-fit engagement within said recess.

Claim 25. (new) The orthopaedic component of claim 24, wherein the RFID tag stores information including one or more of the following:

product identification;
part number;
batch number;
manufacturer;
manufacture date; and
inspection information.

Claim 26. (new) The orthopaedic component of claim 24, wherein the RFID tag stores information including one or more of the following:

patient identification;
patient medical history;
caregiver information; and
date of implant surgery.

Claim 27. (new) An orthopaedic component for engagement to a human body, comprising:

a component body;
a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag configured for storing information related to the orthopaedic component, said RFID tag associated with said component body so that the stored information can be accessed by an independent reader;
a housing defining a cavity sized for receiving said RFID tag therein;
an engagement feature defined between said housing and said component body, said engagement feature including a recess defined in said component body and an

engagement element defined on said housing, wherein said engagement element is configured for slip-fit, snap-fit, or threaded fit engagement within said recess.

Claim 28. (new) The orthopaedic component of claim 27, wherein the RFID tag stores information including one or more of the following:

- product identification;
- part number;
- batch number;
- manufacturer;
- manufacture date; and
- inspection information.

Claim 29. (new) The orthopaedic component of claim 27, wherein the RFID tag stores information including one or more of the following:

- patient identification;
- patient medical history;
- caregiver information; and
- date of implant surgery.